



EYES ONLY

OGC 66-0702

28 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT: Possible Investigation Involving the Agency

1. This memorandum is for information only and was prepared pursuant to requests for items of this nature.
2. For many years Senator McCarthy has pursued the thought of a Joint Committee for Intelligence. This year, for the first time, Senator McCarthy took up a new tactic. He has stated to us privately that he recognized his Joint Committee proposition was not going to be acted on favorably. Therefore, the resolution he introduced on 24 January 1966 (S. Res. 210) proposed that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "make a full and complete study with respect to the effects of the operations and activities of the Central Intelligence Agency upon the foreign relations of the United States." He was hopeful that the Committee would assign such an investigation to a small group presumably to include himself. This tactic also served the purpose of keeping the matter within the framework of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and not exposing it to rejection by the full Senate.
3. It is known the Committee has discussed this resolution in some detail on more than one occasion. We have been informed that the Committee appears to be about evenly split on the issue but as of now no decision has been made either to go forward or to drop the matter. An interesting sidelight of the Committee discussions was an apparently serious proposal that Senator Russell be requested to permit two or three members of Senate Foreign Relations Committee to sit during the meetings of the CIA Subcommittee of Armed Services.

4. I believe the relationships of the Agency with its Senate Subcommittees as opposed to the two House Subcommittees are vulnerable because of the lack of meetings. In 1966 there has been only one meeting. The records show that for the last eight years we have averaged less than four meetings a year. This includes 1965 when we had 11 meetings and this frequency was accounted for by Senator Stennis who was Acting Chairman while Senator Russell was ill and away from active participation. In one of those years no meeting was held. A review of the participation by the members at these meetings which are in fact combined meetings of the CIA Subcommittees of Armed Services and Appropriations shows the average attendance to be about four members.

5. As to review of budgets, I believe it is fair to state that on the Senate side there has not been a full-fledged budget presentation in the last ten years. A fair estimate would be that the Subcommittee has heard the Agency on budget matters for no more than an average of one hour each year. In a majority of the years there has been no discussion of the budget by the Agency with the Subcommittee. If this information were available to critics of the current Subcommittee system, obviously it would provide them with strong ammunition. It is noted that in the last three or four years most of the meetings occur at the initiative of the Agency and, in addition, we are in touch almost weekly with the staff requesting that they bring to the attention of the Chairman the appropriateness of a meeting.

6. In view of the information contained above, I am not giving this memorandum any circulation other than a copy to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence with a suggestion that after he has reviewed it we discuss it with the view of sending it to the Director with possible recommendations.

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[Redacted]
Legislative Counsel

cc: DDCI

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Remarks:

Attached is a memorandum I have done for Colonel White at his request. I regard the facts as important and serious. I would suggest that you and I might spend a few minutes considering possible courses of action before sending this on to the Director.

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